

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 30, 31 and 55 is appreciatively noted.

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 3-17, 19-29, 32, 34-46, 49-54 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, independent claims 1, 17 and 32 have been amended above so as to obviate the Examiner's stated reasons for concern.

The word "common" had been used in its commonly accepted normal English language usage to mean "the same" information is being transmitted "simultaneously" to plural units. Although the original language is believed to have been very clear and definite, the Examiner's concerns are now believed to have been addressed by eliminating usage of the word "common" and to otherwise make it clear what is being "simultaneously" transmitted or received, etc.

Accordingly, there being no other outstanding ground of rejection, this entire application is now assumed to be in fully allowed condition.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the attached copy of a Notice of Opposition filed in the parallel EPO case on 9 September 1999 but only forwarded to the applicant on 23 September 1999. An English translation of the Opposition Notice is attached together with a copy of each reference cited therein in a Form PTO-1449. Official consideration and citation of all such references is respectfully requested.

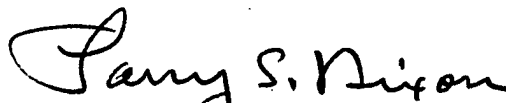
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) and (e), the undersigned attorney of record herein certifies that each item of information contained in the attached PTO-1449 disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Therefore, no IDS fee is believed necessary for this stage of prosecution. However, if such fee is deemed necessary, then authority is hereby given to charge such IDS fee to our Account No. 14-1140.

The attachments have only just been received by the undersigned and no time has yet been available to study them.

Assuming that such new references are no more relevant than prior art already considered in this case, this entire application is believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Larry S. Nixon
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:vc
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100